United Nations

Press Release

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission takes over three observation posts in northern sector of demilitarized zone between the two countries.

- Secretary-General designates deputy to his Personal Representative for Central America to observe meetings between Guatemalan Government and Unidad Revoluncionaria Nacional Guatemalteca.

- United Nations Development Programme Administrator appoints new Director of Regional Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean.

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A United Nations official announced today that the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) had officially taken over three observation posts in the northern sector of the demilitarized zone today, and a flag-raising ceremony had been held at one of the sites shortly before noon, local time.

He said aerial reconnaissance of the entire zone was carried out yesterday as part of an engineering survey, as preparations are being made for the deployment of UNIKOM throughout the zone. Total strength of the force stood at 10 yesterday, with military observers reported to be arriving in significant numbers and being absorbed into UNIKOM with a comprehensive training programme. Infantry units from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) were travelling overland in large convoys and were expected to arrive in the area today through Friday, the official said.

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The spokeswoman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today that he had designated the deputy to his Personal Representative for Central America, Francesc Vendrell, to observe meetings to be held between the Government of Guatemala and Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

She said the meetings were taking place today and tomorrow in Mexico City in the presence of the Conciliator and members of the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala in order to discuss an agenda and a procedure for the talks which the two parties are to conduct in pursuance of the Agreement signed in Oslo last March. In that Agreement and subsequently, the Secretary-General was asked to be represented by an observer at today's and subsequent meetings.

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The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), William H. Draper III, announced today the appointment of Fernando Zumbado of Costa Rica as Assistant Administrator and Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, succeeding Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo who returned to Colombia last October. Mr. Zumbado is expected to join UNDP on 15 May.

Mr. Zumbado has held a number of posts in the Costa Rican Government, including Minister of Planning and Director of the Regional and Urban Planning Department.

From 1982 to 1984, Mr. Zumbado was Costa Rica's Ambassador to the United Nations, and in 1985, its Ambassador to the United States and to the Organization of American States (OAS). From 1986 to 1990, he served as his country's Minister of Housing and Human Settlements.

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